

with which he did everything he believed to be right, or to be his duty as the occasion dictated.

“When in affluence, his contributions for the promotion of science were liberal. When in moderate circumstances, he pursued with equal industry such subjects in science as required small expenditure. But at all times he was an industrious and intelligent laborer, a warm and sympathetic friend, and a thorough hater of pretence and empiricism.

“Failing eyesight compelled him eventually to give up his studies in Zoology, and to devote his whole time to Linguistics, for which he had exhibited a growing taste for several previous years.

“The rare flexibility of his vocal organs gave him peculiar facility for analyzing and imitating the sounds in foreign languages, which he never lost any opportunity of hearing in his travels, both in this country and in Europe. In this matter his Natural History training in accurate observation, aided by remarkable perceptive qualities, gave him great advantage, and I am convinced that his analysis of the causes of change of sound in words, in passing from one language to another, will hereafter receive much more attention than they have heretofore done in this, the country of his birth, where such investigations are still in their infancy.”

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*Stated Meeting, February 18, 1881.*

Present, 12 members.

President, Mr. FRALEY, in the Chair.

A letter acknowledging Diploma was received from A. Akerman, dated Stockholm, Jan. 16, 1881.

A letter requesting missing numbers of the Proceedings was received from the Rhode Island Historical Society, February 14, 1881.

A letter respecting the third part of Transactions, Vol. XV, was received from E. A. Barber, 4008 Walnut street, Philadelphia, February 14, 1881.

Letters of acknowledgment were read.

Donations for the Library were received from the Mining Surveyors at Melbourne; the Zoologischer Anzeiger; the Academia dei Lincei; the Academy at Brussels; M. Delesse; the Revue Politique; London Nature; Journal of Forestry; Mr. T. S. Brown, of Montreal; Essex Institute; Poughkeepsie Society of Natural History; Mr. B. A. Hinsdale; Penna.

Magazine of History; Franklin Institute; Medical News; Mr. T. Meehan; Mr. H. Phillips, Jr.; Naturalist's Leisure Hour; State Board of Agriculture; Johns Hopkins University; Lighthouse Board; American Antiquarian Society; Wisconsin Historical Society; Robert Peter, M.D., and the Asiatic Society of Japan.

The death of the Rev. E. A. Washburn, D.D., at New York, February 2, 1881, aged 58 years, was announced by the Secretary.

The death of Auguste Mariette Pasha, at Cairo, Jan. 19 aged 60 years, was announced by Mr. Lesley, with a sketch of his career as an Egyptologist.

A communication was read, entitled "On the course of Fossil Botany," by Prof. M. B. Renouf, at Paris, by Leo Lesquereux.

A copy of the original photograph of the nebula in Orion was presented by Dr. H. Draper.

A communication was read, entitled "On certain old Almanacs published in Philadelphia between 1705 and 1744," by Henry Phillips, Jr.

The minutes of the last meeting of the Board of Officers and Members in Council were read. On motion the action of the Board in disposing of certain old newspapers by presentation to the Pennsylvania Historical Society was approved.

The following report of the Chairman of the Committee on the Michaux Legacy was read, as follows:

Report of the Chairman of the Committee on the Michaux Legacy:

Half of the income of the legacy for the last year was duly paid over by the Treasurer to the Treasurer of the Fairmount Park Commissioners, and has been duly applied to the cultivation and distribution of trees, partly in Park planting and partly to others.

The other half was not all spent because Professor Rothrock only delivered a half course of seven lectures in the Park, as he desired to go and went in the early summer to Strasburg to perfect himself in German, and to pursue his botanical studies under Professor De Barry. There was an increased attendance and interest in Dr. Rothrock's last spring's lectures.

Owing to but a dividend of 33 per cent. having been received for the Auxiliary Faculty by the University from Dr. Wood's estate, Dr. Roth-

rock will have but one-third his usual income from that chair. It is important that we keep him in Philadelphia. I therefore recommend an appropriation of \$330 for a course of fourteen lectures in the Park.

The year 1880 was most abundant in tree seed, and they were gathered in quantities much greater than ever before and in more varieties. We have planted the Hardy Catalpa in large quantity and have the seed for planting this spring; also the seeds of the White Cedar, both very valuable for enduring wood.

ELI K. PRICE, *Chairman, &c.*

It was, on motion,

*Resolved*, That \$330 be appropriated for the Michaux lectures.

On motion it was resolved that the whole subject of stereotyping and printing separately the publications of the Society for convenience in meeting such requests as that of Mr. Barber, in his letter of the 4th inst., be referred to the Committee on Publication, with the Treasurer, to report.

New nominations Nos. 928 to 931 were read.

And the meeting was adjourned.

*On a Cours de Botanique Fossile by Prof. M. B. Renault.  
By Leo Lesquereux.*

(*Read before the American Philosophical Society, February 18, 1881.*)

In this course of lectures given by Prof. Renault in the museum of natural history of Paris, the author gives very interesting details on the results he has obtained from anatomical analysis of silicified specimens of fossil plants. The volume recently published exposes the characters of a single group, the *Cicadeæ*, which the celebrated phyto-paleontologist has followed in all their subdivisions and modifications from the present age to the Devonian. These researches throw some new light on the nature or internal structure of some plants of the coal measures, especially the *Cordaites*, the *Sigillariæ* and *Stigmaria*.

Prof. Renault divides the *Cicadeæ*, from the structure of the wood, trunks and leaves, in five groups or families, which from a difference in the essential characters of the wood he subdivides in two sections, A. B.

The plants are composed of vascular vessels forming two juxtaposed woody parts inversely increasing the one toward the centre (centripetal), the other toward the outside (centrifugal). This double increase is going on in both the leaves and the stems. To section A are referable the *Cicadeæ*, the *Zamia*, the *Cicadomyxa*, and the *Cordaites*, to B the *Poroxyle* and the *Sigillariæ* with the *Stigmaria*.

The *Cordaites* and the *Sigillariæ* being now well known from American